Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal information manager comprising:

a microprocessor;

memory operably connected to the microprocessor and storing a database;

a data input device operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to receive an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record mode and a dialog mode, in said record mode said dialog manager configured to examine said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it contains an explicit or an implicit data processing request, an ~~implicit~~ explicit request being a request immediately passed to the microprocessor and an implicit request being a request which is queued in the database and processed by the microprocessor in the background between explicit requests, in said dialog mode said dialog manager is configured to treat all requests as explicit data processing requests, said dialog manager configured to immediately pass explicit data processing requests and queue implicit data processing requests;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and

storing and retrieving data from said database, said information storage/retrieval module

handling implicit and explicit data processing requests specified by said dialog manager,

in said record mode said dialog manager instructing the information storage/retrieval

module to store decoded text, excluding explicit data processing requests, in said

database ~~memory~~; and

an output module converting text received from said dialog module into speech

and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request;

wherein said dialog manager passes implicit processing requests to said

information storage/retrieval module during periods of inactivity.

2. (Original) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein said dialog

manager identifies an explicit data processing request during said record mode by

comparing said decoded text against a list of reserved words.

3. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein

said dialog manager identifies an explicit data processing request during said dialog mode

by comparing said decoded text against a list of predefined data processing requests,

assigning a match score to each of said predefined data processing requests and selecting

said predefined data processing request having a highest matching score as said explicit

data processing request.

4. (Original) The personal information manager according to claim 3, wherein if said

highest matching score is less than a threshold score said dialog manager passes an

instruction to said output module to prompt the user to select a given data processing

request from among a selected number of said predefined data processing requests.

5. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, wherein

said information storage/retrieval module passes to said dialog manager a specified

number of data records retrieved in response to said data processing request if a number

of retrieved data records is below a threshold number and otherwise passes characteristic

words selected from said retrieved data records, and said dialog manager instructs said

output module to prompt the user to select a given said characteristic word used refine the

data processing request.

6. (Previously Presented) The personal information manager according to claim 1, further

comprising:

        a global word table containing a list of all of the words stored in the database; and

said dialog manager examining decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches to a given said word in said global word table;

wherein a request to prompt the user for clarification is queued if the decoded text does not match any word in said global word table.

7. (Currently Amended) The personal information manager according to claim 1, further comprising:

a local word table in said <u>database</u> ~~memory~~;

said information storage/retrieval module stores atoms of data, each said atom having a unique identifier; and

said local word table containing a list of words contained in each atom of data and the number of times each word appears in a given atom; wherein if a number of atoms matching a data retrieval request exceeds a predetermined number, said dialog manager prompts a user to select a given characteristic word from a list of characteristic words, said characteristic words being derived from the local word tables of atoms matching said data retrieval request, said selected characteristic word being appended to a search string of the data retrieval request, thereby reducing the number of atoms matching a data retrieval request.

8. (Original) The personal information manager according to claim 7, wherein said characteristic words are derived by selecting a predetermined number of the most frequently occurring words from the local word tables of the atoms matching a data retrieval request, provided that that the selected word does not already appear in the search string of the data retrieval request.

9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A personal information manager comprising:

a microprocessor;

memory operably connected to the microprocessor and storing a database;

a microphone operably connected to the microprocessor and configured to receive an audio data stream and decode the received audio data stream into text;

a database storing decoded text, a queue of implicit processing requests, and a table of command words;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and storing and retrieving decoded text from said database,

a dialog manager module executed by the microprocessor and having a record mode and a dialog mode,

in said record mode, said dialog manager comparing said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches one of the command words in said database:

if said decoded text matches a command then said dialog module judges that the decoded text contains an explicit request, toggles into the dialog mode and processes the explicit request,

otherwise, said dialog manager passes the decoded text to the information storage/retrieval module for storage in said database;

in said dialog mode, said dialog manager comparing said decoded text received from said data input device to determine whether it matches one of the command words in said database to determine whether the decoded text contains an explicit request which request may include a request to toggle into record mode and a data processing request;

an information storage/retrieval module executed by the microprocessor and storing and retrieving data from said database in response to instructions from said dialog manager; and

an output module converting text received from said dialog module into speech and outputting said speech in response to a data processing request.